

Message Text

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ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NEA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

NSAE-00 INR-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-06 SIL-01

SP-02 USIA-01 PRS-01 /056 W

-----018833 261959Z /72

P 261736Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2760

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 14971

LIMDIS

PASS TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE

KUWAIT AND TEHRAN PASS BLUMENTHAL PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IMF, BE

SUBJECT: CANDIDACY OF WILLY DECLERCQ FOR IMF MANAGING
DIRECTOR

1. MINFINANCE INTERNATIONAL COUNSELOR JACQUES VAN
YPERSELE CALLED THE EMBASSY OCTOBER 26 TO ASK THAT WE
INFORM INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES OF THE BELGIAN
GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL THAT WILLY DECLERCQ (FORMER BELGIAN
FINANCE MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE)
BE CONSIDERED AS A CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED WITTEVEEN AS IMF
MANAGING DIRECTOR.

2. VAN YPERSELE SAID THAT BELGIUM INITIATED THE PROPOSAL
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH A PHONE CALL FROM FINANCE
MINISTER GEENS TO HEALEY (IN LATTER'S CAPACITY AS CURRENT
INTERIM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN) AND BY CABLE TO THE BELGIAN
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN WASHINGTON. IN VAN YPERSELE'S
WORDS, "DECLERCQ WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SUCCEED WITTEVEEN IF
IMF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS DECIDE THAT THE JOB SHOULD
GO TO A MAN WITH POLITICAL EXPERIENCE" (I.E. AS OPPOSED TO
A TECHNICIAN). HE SAID THAT BELGIUM HOPES THE USG WILL AT
LEAST POSE NO RPT NO OBJECTIONS TO THE DECLERCQ CANDIDACY,
AND THAT WE MIGHT SUPPORT IT.

3. VAN YPERSELE ASKED THAT THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL NOT RPT
NOT BE DISCUSSED OUTSIDE OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

4. COMMENT. DECLERCQ'S CANDIDACY DOES NOT COME AS A
SURPRISE TO US. HE IS SOMEWHAT OUT OF HIS ELEMENT AND
PROBABLY AT LOOSE ENDS AS LEADER OF THE FLEMISH LIBERALS
IN THE CURRENTLY FEEBLE BELGIAN OPPOSITION. HIS POSSIBLE
AVAILABILITY FOR THE IMF POST HAS BEEN BRUITED ABOUT IN
THE LOCAL PRESS FOR SOME TIME, AS WELL AS IN A
OCTOBER 24 STORY IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF LONDON.
CHAMBERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED FEDERAL RESERVE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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